

NEWS RELEASE

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KENNETT MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL GUN CHARGES

November 28, 2007

A Kennett, Missouri man pled guilty today to federal gun charges, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

SHANE ELLIS, age 38, pled guilty to two felony counts of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm. He appeared before United States District Judge Jean C. Hamilton.

As charged in Count I of the Indictment, on July 5, 2007, Ellis met with an undercover ATF Special Agent regarding the Agent purchasing a Russian rifle for \$100.00. The meeting occurred at Ellis' residence located on Ollie Street in Kennett, Missouri. After meeting the Agent and a cooperating individual, Ellis entered his residence, retrieved a rifle, then exited his residence and handed the rifle to the Agent. The Agent paid Ellis \$100.00 for the rifle.

As charged in Count II of the Indictment, on July 12, 2007, law enforcement officers executed a federal search warrant authorizing them to search Ellis's residence for firearms, ammunition and related items. During the execution of the search warrant at Ellis' residence, officers discovered and seized a Winchester, model 70, .270 caliber, bolt-action rifle.

At the times Ellis knowingly possessed the firearms, he was a previously convicted felon having been convicted of the felony of Manslaughter in Clay County, Arkansas.

Ellis now faces a maximum punishment of 10 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine on each count. Sentencing has been set for February 25, 2008.

Hanaway praised the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their work on the case. Assistant United States Attorney Paul W. Hahn handled the prosecution for the Government.